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Haldeman's Testimony

Congressman Checking Possible Perjury

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WASHINGTON — The chairman of a House subcommittee that investigated CIA involvement in Watergate last year today began "an intensive study" to determine whether perjured testimony was given.

Rep. Lucien Nedzi, D-Mich., reviewing testimony given to an armed forces subcommittee by H.R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff during an investigation in 1973.

COMPARE TESTIMONY

The congressman said he wants to compare it with the version that emerged Monday in White House tape transcripts of conversations between Haldeman and the President on June 23, 1972, six days after the Watergate break-in. Publication of the transcripts has produced a bipartisan revolt in Congress against the President.

The transcripts disclosed that Haldeman and President Nixon on that day decided to ask the CIA to pressure the FBI to call off its probe into funds that had been routed—or "laundered"—through Mexican banks because they feared the FBI would trace the money to the Nixon re-election committee.

UNDER OATH

Sources close to the subcommittee said Haldeman testified under oath that he and the President did not discuss the political implications at all. Because the transcript has never been made public, the reports could not be verified Wednesday.

The Nedzi subcommittee's report is unclear on the subject. It says:

"Haldeman does not recall bringing up the Mexican laundering of funds at all, but concedes it could have been mentioned" at his June 23, 1972, meeting with CIA officials.

"Thereafter," says the report, "having received assurances from Director Helms

that CIA was not involved in Watergate and that there were no concerns over exposing the Bay of Pigs or other covert operations, Walters (deputy CIA director) pursuant to the President's direction to Haldeman was asked to see (Acting FBI Director) L. Patrick Gray.

"Mr. Haldeman disclaimed any notion of a purpose to impede the FBI investigation."

In testimony before the Nedzi panel and the Senate appropriations subcommittee on the CIA, which made a similar investigation in May,

1973, Haldeman declared that the plan to involve the CIA was initiated by the White House solely in the interests of "national security."

The transcripts appear in conflict with Haldeman's sworn testimony and the President's public statements.

Haldeman, in the transcripts, proposed the CIA ploy at a morning meeting with Nixon six days after the Watergate break-in.

"You know the Democratic break-in thing, we're back in the problem area because the FBI is not under control

because Gray doesn't know how to control it and they have — their investigation is now leading into some productive areas . . . and it goes in some directions we don't want it to go."

Haldeman then told the President that a \$25,000

check from Minnesota businessman Kenneth H. Dahlberg to the re-election committee and a presidential campaign contribution from Texas could be traced through Mexico to the Watergate burglars, establishing a link between them and key Nixon campaign aides.

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